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Library grants to village panchayats.

* 320 *Q.*—Mr. A. Ranganatha Mudaliyar: Will the hon. the Minister for Education and Excise be pleased to state whether the Government have passed any orders that library grants should not be disbursed to village panchayats for or from the year 1931–32, and if so, the reasons for them?

A.—No such orders have been passed. Owing to financial stringency, no provision has been made in the Civil Budget Estimates of the current year for grants to public libraries. It is not, therefore, possible to sanction grants either to village panchayats or to local bodies towards the maintenance of public libraries.

Museums

Latrine arrangements for the Museum and the Connemara Library.

* 321 *Q.*—Mr. M. S. Sreshta: Will the hon. the Minister for Education and Excise be pleased to state—

(*a*) what latrine arrangements have been made for the visitors to the Museum and the Connemara Library; and

(*b*) if there are not suitable arrangements now, whether steps will be taken to provide them early?

A.—(*a*) There is flush-out lavatory in the compound of the Museum for the use of visitors to the Museum and the Connemara Library. There is also, in the compound of the Victoria Technical Institute quite close to the Museum, a public lavatory which is open to visitors to the Museum.

(*b*) Does not arise.

[*N.B.*—For a further starred question please see page 97 infra.]

UNSTARRED QUESTIONS.

Backward Communities

Ameliorative work for the benefit of the Viswabrahmans.

322 *Q.*—Pandit Ganala Ramamurti: Will the hon. the Home Member be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether the Government have received copies of the resolutions passed in the several sessions of the Andhra Provincial Viswabrahmana Conferences which were convened under the auspices of the All-India Viswakarman Liberal Federation urging the Government to instruct the Labour Department to take up ameliorative work for Viswabrahmana community also; and

(*b*) what orders were passed by the Government on this request?

A.—(*a*) & (*b*) The hon. Member's attention is invited to the answer given to clauses (*b*) and (*c*) of question No. 489 on 28th February 1931.

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Control of Books

Proscription of the book " Yanthra Chintamani ".

323 *Q.*—Pandit GANALA RAMAMURTI: Will the hon. the Home Member be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether the Government have proscribed the ancient Sanskrit work named " Yanthra Chintamani " printed by Ananda Press, Madras, and published by Mr. Pattisapu Venkateswarulu of Rajahmundry, East Godavari district; and

(*b*) if so, on what grounds?

A.—(*a*) No.

(*b*) Does not arise.

General

Instructions by the Government to the Police and the Excise Departments regarding picketing.

324 *Q.*—Mr. C. R. PARTHASARATHI AYYANGAR: Will the hon. the Home Member be pleased to state whether the Government have issued any definite instructions as to how and when picketing is to go on without obstruction from the Police or the Excise?

A.—The instructions issued by the Government on the subject of picketing are to the effect that, where it involves a breach of paragraph 7 of the settlement with the Congress, dated 5th March 1931, it may be dealt with as the law provides or suspended in accordance with paragraph 7 at the discretion of the District Magistrate concerned.

Orders or rules, if any, passed by the Excise Commissioner regarding picketing.

325 *Q.*—Mr. C. R. PARTHASARATHI AYYANGAR: Will the hon. the Home Member be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether the Excise Commissioner has issued and passed any orders or rules in connexion with picketing for the guidance of his subordinates; and

(*b*) if so, what they are and how far they are observed?

A.—(*a*) & (*b*) The Commissioner of Excise issued a circular to the effect that the Delhi Settlement, in so far as it related to picketing, did not include the picketing of abkari sales. As soon as this circular came to the notice of the Government they pointed out to the Commissioner that picketing was in no case illegal in itself and, consequently, was not illegal if resorted to at abkari sales and instructed him to modify his circular.

TAMIL NADU LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY TRUTH ALONE TRIUMPHS

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Alleged cases of obstruction of picketing by the Police and the Excise Departments.

326 *Q.*—Mr. C. R. Parthasarathi Ayyangar: Will the hon. the Home Member be pleased to state whether the Police and Excise Departments have taken any steps to prevent picketing and obstruct the same; and if so, why?

A.—No action has been taken by any department against picketing unless it became aggressive or involved a violation of the ordinary law or endangered the public peace. In such cases action has been taken by local authorities as circumstances demanded.

Promulgation of an order under section 144, Criminal Procedure Code, in Kuppam, Chittoor district.

327 *Q.*—Mr. A. Ranganatha Mudaliyar: Will the hon. the Home Member be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether the Government have perused the order, dated the 25th August 1931, of the Sub-Magistrate, Kuppam, Chittoor district, under section 144, Criminal Procedure Code, prohibiting the holding of meetings, delivery of speeches and lectures, organizing or taking part in processions and display of any flags other than the Union Jack;

(*b*) why such an order was issued in spite of the Gandhi-Irwin pact; and

(*c*) what action was taken by Government to have it cancelled?

A.—(*a*) Yes.

(*b*) The situation in Kuppam was such that the Magistrate considered that there was danger of a breach of the peace.

(*c*) None.

Police

Quartering Reserve Police in Kuppam, Chittoor district.

328 *Q.*—Mr. A. Ranganatha Mudaliyar: Will the hon. the Home Member be pleased to state whether any Reserve Police have been quartered in Kuppam in connexion with the alleged Congress activities, and if so, when and why, and the strength of the Reserve Police stationed therein?

A.—Two Reserve parties of 1 head constable and 10 constables each were stationed at Kuppam, one from 17th August 1931 to 25th August 1931 and the other from 19th August 1931 to 30th August 1931 for the purpose of preserving the peace of the village.

Alleged ill-treatment of Mr. Narasappa's son by the Sub-Inspector of Police of Penukonda.

329 *Q.*—Mr. P. Bayappa Reddi: Will the hon. the Home Member be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether it is a fact that Mr. P. Narasappa, clerk, Sub-Collector's Office, Penukonda, complained in the month of April to the Superintendent of Police to the effect that the Sub-Inspector of Penukonda sent for his son to the police station, ill-treated him and beat him and kicked him with his boots;

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(*b*) whether the Superintendent replied to the said Mr. Narasappa in an open post-card as follows:—

"I regret I do not believe your allegations and would advise you to endeavour to behave in a gentlemanly and decent manner"; and

(*c*) whether the Government propose to call for a report?

A.—(*a*) A copy of the complaint referred to was sent to the Government by Mr. T. Sivasankaram of Penukonda.

(*b*) Yes.

(*c*) No. The Government have referred Mr. Sivasankaram's letter to the Inspector-General of Police for disposal.

Criminal Justice

Appointment of Viswabrahmans as Honorary Bench Magistrates.

330 *Q.*—Pandit GANALA RAMAMURTI: Will the hon. the Law Member be pleased to state how many Viswabrahmans were appointed as Honorary Bench Magistrates to the 1st and 2nd class Bench Courts in this Presidency and Special Magistrates in the metropolis, since 1920, classified according to linguistic basis (Andhra, Tamil, Kanarese, Kerala and Oriya)?

A.—The Government have not got the information.

Hydro-Electric Schemes

Progress of the Pykara schemes.

331 *Q.*—Mr. K. P. V. S. MUHAMMAD MEERA RAVUTTAR: Will the hon. the Law Member be pleased to state—

(*a*) the progress of the work in the Pykara schemes up to the 31st March 1931; and

(*b*) when the power supply is likely to be extended to Coimbatore, Salem, Trichinopoly, and Madura districts?

A.—(*a*) All preliminary works, such as quarters for staff, workshops and transport arrangements were completed. The civil works were brought to an advanced stage of construction. Orders for the hydraulic and electrical machinery and equipment were placed. Works progressed in accordance with the programme and estimates. It is anticipated that the scheme will be completed by the estimated date, viz., end of 1932.

Detailed information will be found in the Administration Report of the Department for 1930–31 which will be issued shortly.

(*b*) Coimbatore—
December 1932.

Salem—
From Mettur, about November 1931.

Trichinopoly and Madura—
These are not at present included in the area to be served by Pykara.

Prisons

Release of two satyagrahis convicted in connexion with the Neill Statue Satyagraha.

332 *Q.*—Mr. M. B. Rangasawami Reddi: Will the hon. the Law Member be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether a girl, Ammakannu of Cuddalore and Kanthimathinathan of Tinnevelly, two young satyagrahis in connexion with the Neill Statue Satyagraha are still in jail;

(*b*) if so, where;

(*c*) whether these cases were examined for release under the recent Gandhi-Irwin pact;

(*d*) whether the Government regarded this case as a case of resorting to violence or of incitement to violence;

(*e*) whether the Government have received a large number of influentially signed petitions for their release; and

(*f*) whether the Government will be pleased to consider the question of their release in view of the tender age of these children?

A.—(*a*) and (*b*) The girl named Ammakannu was detained in the certified school under the Madras Children's Aid Society, and the boy Kanthimathinathan in the Senior Certified School, Chingleput.

(*c*) No.

(*d*) Does not arise.

(*e*) No.

(*f*) They have since been released.

General

Use of the suffix 'Asari' to Viswabrahman names.

333 *Q.*—Pandit Ganala Ramamurti: Will the hon. the Member for Revenue be pleased to state whether the Government have received any representation that the Karnams of the Northern districts and the Monigars of the Southern districts are recording the names of individuals belonging to the communities known as Kamasalin, Kammalan and Thattan, etc., with the form of the suffix "Asari" in the birth and death registers maintained by them instead of "Acharyulu Garu" or "Acharyar Avargal"?

A.—The answer is in the negative.

Adoption of the honorific prefix and suffix to Viswabrahman names.

334 *Q.*—Pandit Ganala Ramamurti: Will the hon. the Member for Revenue be pleased to state whether it was brought to the notice of the Government that in communications from the Revenue Officials, members of the Viswabrahmana community are being addressed without the honorific prefix of "M.R.Ry." and suffix of "Garu" or "Avargal"?

A.—No.

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Land Revenue

Assignment of waste lands to skilful artizans.

335 *Q.*—Pandit Ganala Ramamurti: Will the hon. the Member for Revenue be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether there is any proposal before the Government to assign waste lands on ordinary darkhast rules to skilful artizans of cottage industries;

(*b*) whether the abovementioned concession will be extended to Viswakarmans also who are mainly engaged in indigenous handicrafts; and

(*c*) if so, when the Government will come to a conclusion on that matter?

A.—(*a*), (*b*) & (*c*) The Government have no such proposal under consideration.

Public Service

Representation of Viswabrahmans in the Secretariat.

336 *Q.*—Pandit Ganala Ramamurti: Will the hon. the Member for Revenue be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether there are any Viswabrahmans in the various departments of the Secretariat; and

(*b*) if so, how many clerks in the upper and the lower divisions and how many in the Superintendent and Assistant Secretary cadres, classified as Andhra, Tamil, Kanarese, Kerala and Oriya?

A.—(*a*) Yes.

(*b*) One Upper Division clerk who is acting as a Superintendent. He is a Tamilian. There is also a Viswabrahmana typist, who is a Tamilian.

Local Self-Government

Postponement of the elections to local bodies.

337 *Q.*—Pandit Ganala Ramamurti: Will the hon. the Minister for Local Self-Government be pleased to state whether the Government are contemplating to postpone elections under the Local Boards and Municipal Councils' Amendment Acts till the next general elections to the Madras Legislative Council?

A.—No.

Amount of income from toll-gates and from licences to vehicles for 1926 *to* 1930.

338 *Q.*—Mr. K. P. V. S. Muhammad Meera Ravuttar: Will the hon. the Minister for Local Self-Government be pleased to state—

(*a*) the amount realized by various Local Boards, Municipal Councils, Public Works Department and Corporation of Madras from toll-gates annually for 1926–27 to 1929–30; and

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(*b*) the amount realized by various Municipal Councils and the Corporation of Madras by licence fees from—

(i) motor vehicles; and

(ii) non-motor vehicles

annually for 1926–27 to 1929–30?

A.—(*a*) The figures relating to the toll income of municipal councils and district boards for the four years ending 1929–30 are available in the General Reviews of the district municipalities and the annual reports on the working of local boards in the Presidency for the respective years copies of which were supplied to all Members of Legislative Council. The total income realized by the Corporation of Madras and the Public Works Department is given in the subjoined statement:—

—	1926-27.	1927-28.	1928-29.	1929-30.
	RS.	RS.	RS.	RS.
Corporation of Madras ..	56,307	81,000	85,000	96,100
Public Works Department.	82,704	92,267	3,78,844	3,36,683

(*b*) Information is not available.

Medical

Transfer to Government service of Viswabrahman medical officers employed by local bodies.

339 *Q.*—Pandit Ganala Ramamurti: Will the hon. the Minister for Local Self-Government be pleased to state—

(*a*) the number of candidates of the Viswabrahmana community who have completed the M.B.B.S., L.M.S. and L.M.P. courses with Government stipends;

(*b*) how many of them are serving in the Government;

(*c*) whether the Surgeon-General has recommended to the Government that certain members of the Viswabrahmana community employed by local bodies under rural schemes should be drafted into the Government service; and

(*d*) what action the Government have taken in the matter?

A.—(*a*) Information is not available.

(*b*) Four are serving as Sub-Assistant Surgeons.

(*c*) No.

(*d*) The question does not arise.

Motor Vehicles Taxation

Number of cars, buses, etc., in the Presidency.

340 *Q.*—Mr. K. P. V. S. Muhammad Meera Ravuttar: Will the hon. the Minister for Local Self-Government be pleased to state—

(*a*) the number of pleasure cars that are plying at present in each district;

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(b) the number of taxis that are plying in each district;

(c) the number of buses that are plying in each district;

(d) the number of lorries that are plying in each district;

(e) the amount realized in the first quarter of this year for licence in each district under each of the above heads under the Motor Vehicles Taxation Act of 1931 (Act III of 1931); and

(f) the number of lorries and cars exempted from the operation of this Act?

A.—(a) to (d) The latest year for which particulars[a] regarding motor vehicles are available in 1930. They are appended. Separate information regarding motor lorries is not available.

(e) Government have no information.

(f) So far as information is available, 109 motor vehicles have been exempted from the tax.

Village Panchayats

Rural Development Fund Committee.

341 Q.—Mr. C. SATYANARAYANA CHOUDARI: Will the hon. the Minister for Local Self-Government be pleased to state—

(a) whether the Government have laid down any policy for the guidance of the Rural Development Fund Committee in the matter of the utilization of the Rural Development Fund;

(b) whether the village panchayats have any representation on the Rural Development Fund Committee;

(c) whether the Government have received any representations on this matter on behalf of the village panchayats; and

(d) if so, what action the Government have taken on such representations?

A.—(a) No. They have, however, been issuing certain instructions as and when certain local boards raised doubts in regard to the working of the Fund.

(b) Attention is invited to section 114-a (5) of the Act.

(c) No.

(d) The question does not arise.

Agriculture

Import of rice from other countries into this Presidency.

342 Q.—Mr. C. SATYANARAYANA CHOUDARI: Will the hon. the Minister for Public Works be pleased to state—

(a) whether it is a fact that surplus rice from other countries like Japan is being imported into this Presidency in large quantities and consequently there has been more and more fall in price of paddy; and

(b) what steps the Government have taken to protect the ryots from this competition?

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[a] Printed as Appendix XIX on pages 168-169 infra.

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A.—(a) The attention of the hon. Member is invited to the latter portion of paragraph 24 of the Report of the Economic Depression Enquiry Committee which has been placed at the disposal of the Press. Figures[a] for the imports of rice into the several ports of the Madras Presidency from foreign countries from 1st March 1931 to 31st July 1931 are appended.

(b) From the figures of exports and imports of rice in respect of this Presidency, the Economic Depression Enquiry Committee concluded that this Presidency as a whole did not produce as much rice as it required for its own consumption

(b) and did not, therefore, consider it necessary to take steps to discourage the import of rice and paddy at present. In view of the above opinion the Government do not propose to take any action.

Public Works

Strength and cost of the staff of the Tuticorin Water-works subdivision.

343 Q.—Mr. Daniel Thomas: Will the hon. the Minister for Public Works be pleased to state—

(a) whether a special subdivision of Engineering Officers has been created exclusively for carrying out the works of the Tuticorin water scheme, and if so, from what date and with what strength of staff;

(b) what is the strength of the staff of the Tuticorin Water-works subdivision (i.e., apart from the supervisional work of the Superintending Engineer and the Madura Special Division Executive Engineer) since January 1931;

(c) what are the monthly establishment charges (inclusive of overseas and travelling allowances and leave allowance and pensionary contribution) of this subdivision;

(d) when the subdivision completed the works of the distribution system;

(e) what length of pipe line has been laid, how many fountains constructed and what other works were executed by them since February 1931 up to the end of June 1931;

(f) what are the works yet remaining to be executed; and

(g) whether the Government have considered the feasibility of reducing the staff and establishment charges of the subdivision?

A.—(a) Yes; from 3rd January 1927 with one subdivisional officer, one supervisor, one overseer, two clerks and four peons.

(b) One subdivisional officer
two supervisors
one overseer
two clerks
one store-keeper and
five peons.

(c) About Rs. 1,250.

(d) In July 1931.

(e) A list[b] of works done is appended.

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[a] Printed as Appendix XX on page 169 infra.

[b] Printed as Appendix XXI on page 170 infra.

(*f*) The construction of an elevated service reservoir, rest-house, cleaners and assistant driver's quarters at the head works, recaulking and retesting of certain pipe lines on the distributing system, fitting up workshop at the head works and provision of fencing.

(*g*) Proposals for the abolition of the overseer and of one clerk have been received and are under consideration.

Construction of an elevated reservoir at Tuticorin.

344 *Q*.—Mr. Daniel Thomas: Will the hon. the Minister for Public Works be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether an elevated reservoir at Tuticorin has been sanctioned for the Tuticorin water-works, and if so, when and at what estimated cost;

(*b*) when tenders were called for for this work, whose tender was accepted and when it was accepted;

(*c*) whether, and, if so, when the work was commenced by the contractors and when it is expected to be completed;

(*d*) why tenders were not called for for this work soon after it was sanctioned and the work completed already, along with the completion of the distribution system; and

(*e*) who is responsible for the failure or omission in getting this work done along with the other works?

A.—(*a*) Yes. In December 1926 at an estimated cost of Rs. 1,57,294.

(*b*) In December 1930. The tender of Messrs. Gannon Dunkerly was accepted in February 1931.

(*c*) The work was commenced in July 1931 and is expected to be completed in April 1932.

(*d*) Though the construction of the reservoir was included in the original estimates, it was expressly ordered that it should not be taken up for execution until experience showed that it was not possible to give an adequate supply of water without the reservoir.

(*e*) The question does not arise.

Education

Measures for improving adult education.

345 *Q*.—Pandit Ganala Ramamurti: Will the hon. the Minister for Education and Excise be pleased to state—

(*a*) the measures adopted by the Government to improve the adult education of all the backward communities; and

(*b*) whether there is any scheme under consideration to open more night schools for the exclusive use of the working classes?

A.—(*a*) The Government give grants towards the maintenance of night schools and adult education classes under non-official agencies. Adult education classes are also attached to a few Government institutions. These schools and classes are intended for the benefit of all communities. Besides these, night schools are maintained by the Labour Department for the depressed classes.

(*b*) No.